

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11005 291017Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SYE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SSO-00 /012 W
-----086532 291023Z /21

O 290959Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7828
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11005

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, ACOM, RP
SUBJECT: LOST COURIER POUCH

1. POUCH X3-29856 CONTAINING TOP SECRET MATERIAL HAS APPARENT-
LY BEEN LOST FROM THE POUCH VAN WHICH WAS CARRYING 13
POUCHES FROM THE MANILA AIRPORT TO THE EMBASSY. POUCH
ORIGINATED IN HONG KONG AND HAD BEEN TURNED OVER BY
COURIER SUSAN CARTER TO HARVEY EIDENBERG IN FRONT OF THE
SILAHIS HOTEL APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE FROM THE EMBASSY.
EIDENBERG, WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED AT POST THAT MORNING WAS
ASSISTED BY MAIL ROOM SUPERVISOR HERBERT CHAILFF AND
BOTH EMPLOYEES INFORM THAT THEY TOOK POSSESSION OF THE
13 POUCHES AT 1930 HOURS AND DISCOVERED AT 1940 HOURS THAT
ONE OF THE POUCHES WAS MISSING.

2. RSO IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED MANILA POLICE AND THE
COMBINED POLICE, US EMBASSY GUARD SEARCH INCLUDED 25
INDIVIDUALS. INTERVIEWS OF THE STREET CLEANERS, SECURITY
GUARDS, AND OTHER HANGERS ON REVEALED NO TRACE OF LOST
POUCH. EIDENBERG AND LOCAL C&R VAN DRIVER BOTH HEARD A
NOISE WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN POUCH FALLING FROM UNSECURED
REAR DOOR OF CHEVY SPORTS VAN APPROXIMATELY 400 YARDS FROM
SILAHIS HOTEL. LOSS APPEARS TO HAVE OCCURRED DUE TO
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THE CONFUSION BETWEEN LOCAL DRIVER AND CHALIFF AS TO
WHO WAS TO SECURE THE DOOR OF THE VAN. NEITHER INDIVIDUAL
REMEMBERS DOING SO. RSO CONTINUING INVESTIGATION AND
ATTEMPTS TO RECOVER POUCH. RSO IS NOT OPTIMISTIC, HOW-
EVER, THAT POUCH WILL BE RECOVERED AND COMPROMISE OF
MATERIAL MUST BE ASSUMED. IN DEALING WITH LOCAL POLICE
INFORMANTS RSO WOULD LIKE TO OFFER \$150 REWARD FOR

RECOVERY OF POUCH. WILL DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE THIS
EXPENDITURE? MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
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Subject: LOST COURIER POUCH
TAGS: ASEC, ACOM, RP
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